(d) The setting up of distributorships/dealerships is a continuous process. Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs are free to set up the LPG distributorships/ Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations in all the States as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

Gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh

235. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies as on date in Uttar Pradesh and their distribution, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more gas agencies in the State during 2003 and 2004;

(c) if so, whether the places for the purpose have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 914 LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh as on 1.4.2003.

(b) to (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs are free to set up the LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations. This is an ongoing process and hence full and finite information for the years 2003 and 2004 may not be possible.

Identification of New CBM Blocks

236. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of eight blocks in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal where exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane has started;